
With You



Established 1963

The Navy Rugby Football Club News Letter for Alumni and Friends

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Plebe Parents Display Booth



Players and staff were on hand to greet the parents and friends of the Class of 2009 during Plebe Parent's Weekend Display held in Dahlgren Hall 11-12 Aug. The Navy Rugby booth drew a steady stream of the curious and the fanatic. Players on hand included club president **Midn 1/C Matt Reichl** and club co-captain **Midn 1/C Jake Womble**, as well as **Midn 1/C Tommy Ragsdale**, **Jimmy Markel**, and **Mac Marrone**. Also stopping by were **Midn 3/C Andrew Vagley** and **Dane Sagerholm**. The booth displayed team memorabilia, video, and motivational posters. Also a number of parents, friends and alumni signed up for the newsletter.

Assistant Coach, **Major Mark "Bubba" Lennerton** commented that Navy Rugby is on a mission not only for the team but for the Brigade of Midshipman, "...that mission is to become the model for high performance club sports on the yard. We've launched a number of initiatives and placed some responsibility on the players to accomplish these missions." Navy Rugby's historical record stands as one of the most successful club sports on the Yard and the plan is to parlay that performance into successful initiatives off the field as well. "Our participation in the Plebe Parent's Weekend is a hint of the enthusiasm and desire our players and staff have for this team of ours," commented **CDR John "Torch" Geisen**, **Officer Representative** for the club. "We plan to lead from the front and be *the* positive example."

Fall '05 Selection Update

This is the first year Navy Rugby has made cuts. With the overwhelming popularity of the sport on campus, 137 strong ventured out to take part in the first tryouts. Initially a battery of athletic performance tests were run on each Mid. Some of the tests determined baseline strength, speed, stamina, endurance and agility. Solid athletic indicators along with a high level of coachability and a good head for the game identified the strongest candidates. With numbers now down to around 75 the staff of seven has a highly motivated and focused group they can manage, teach and care for on and off the pitch. From beginning to end the Mids took the challenge very seriously and their competitive juices began to flow.

The staff found that they had a good core of athletic potential in these Mids. But simply put it takes more than that to execute quality play. The Mids were put through a number of rugby 101 drills that introduced them to portions of the game such as rucking, tackling, passing, and passing under pressure. This is where coaches tallied an individual's coachability, personality, desire, and enthusiasm. Rugby 101 is definitely a school of hard knocks. While some embraced the physical nature of the drills, exposure to 'elegant violence' helped others to decide that rugby might not be for them. It's clear that fewer numbers with higher focus is the beginning to the new formula for winning at Navy.

Brotherhood Across the Pond

Navy Rugby was proud to recently be guests of the hosting Britannia Royal Naval College during their Centenary celebration. As part of the celebration BRNC's rugby team hosted Navy to hearty competition on the pitch; it was a fantastic match. Navy came out the victor 13-7 but no grudges were held; the Brits treated the Navy Gold to a fine after match meal replete with spirited singing and hijinks as only the Brits can do.

The BRNC rugby club looks to tour the United States around Easter of next year. Filling their dance card is sure to be Army in NY and Navy in Annapolis in addition to others. Navy has a tall order in trying to repay the gracious time had in Dartmouth, but the Brits will be in store for an equally good time when they invade the USA.

Rugby Welcomes Firstie Parents

Sept 8th through 11th was Firstie Parents' Weekend and the rugby team led club sports by welcoming firstie player's parents into VIP seating for the annual match vs Washington Men's Club. Moms and Grandmothers were met with Blue & Gold boutonnieres from their players. "This was my first time watching Trevor play," said Mrs. McLemore, mother of firstie Trevor McLemore. "I had a wonderful time." There was an abundance of smiles and pride by all the firstie families. Once the game ended (Navy the victor) each family was given a memento photo marking the occasion.



To our firstie families, *"Thanks for your continued support."*

Firstie and Team Captain Jake Womble pins his mother with a carnation as part of Firstie Parents' Weekend. Mr Womble (center) inspects the application.

Battle by the Bay '05 Announced

Mark your calendars for the **Army-Navy Rugby** game to be played on Saturday night, the 19th of November. In collegiate rugby there is no greater rivalry than Army-Navy. The classic contest, billed as *"Battle by the Bay"* will follow a PRU/EPRU U19 High School All-Star curtain raiser. Both games will be played at Anne Arundel Community College's athletic pavilion. Admission will be \$10 per person or \$5 with a student ID. Stay tuned to www.usna.edu/Rugby for more information as it becomes available. This is a contest you don't want to miss.

Fallen Warrior & Rugger

The Navy Rugby Club and its supporters are saddened to learn of the death of **LtCol David "Rhino" Green**, class of '86. LtCol Green, an AH-1W Super Cobra pilot, was killed July 28th in Iraq while providing cover for casualty evacuation of critically injured Marines and close air support to his fellow Marines on the ground. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his surviving family. ~**Godspeed Rhino**



"A politician thinks of the next election; a statesman, of the next generation."

~James Freeman Clarke

Rugby Excellence Foundation

The Rugby Excellence Foundation campaign is in full swing. The Foundation's efforts are directed toward building a Navy Rugby Complex across the river at the Naval Station. In addition it will also help fund future travel to future national and international competitions and will help Navy continue to compete at the highest levels. For more information or donations contact:

ATTN: Rugby Excellence Foundation
U.S. Naval Academy Foundation
Development Division
291 Wood Road
Annapolis, MD 21402-5001
Ph. (410) 295-4177 or (410) 295-4100

Coaches Corner

It's been a great start to our Fall season with a win over Mt. St. Mary, a successful scrimmage vs WRFC, and a league win over IUP away. We traveled to the UK last weekend and came away with a victory in the USNA v BRNC match. It was a terrific trip although short in nature. The final score was 13-7 USNA. The game was well played and the better team on the day won. Try scorers were **Graham Cleveland** and **James Markel**. On Friday the 7th of Oct we host the AFA on Farragut field. If you are in the area please come out and support us. As is known, we beat AF in Colorado last April and I'm sure they're coming east with a vengeance. If we are to repeat the performance our play has to be exceptional. We look forward to seeing everyone out on Friday the 7th.

GO NAVY BEAT ARMY

Mike
Coach Flanagan

Next up: Airforce vs Navy at 1800 on Farragut Field.

Stay tuned to www.usna.edu/Rugby for all the latest Navy Rugby news, match reports, and more!

With you,
Navy Rugby